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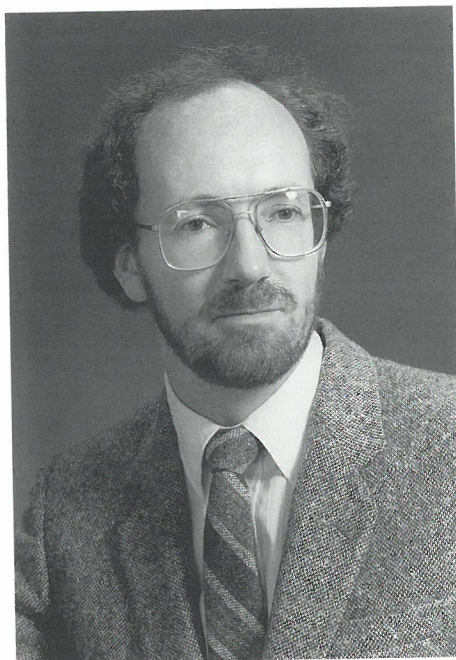
Brent Cotter resigns from Dal Law Faculty

Brent and Sandra Cotter have decided to make permanent, or at least long-term, their move back to their native Saskatchewan. After two years on leave from Dal Law School, the former Associate Dean, Dal Legal Aid Director and long-time Chair of the Admissions Committee has resigned, to continue to serve as Deputy Attorney General of Saskatchewan, a post he has held for the last two years. Both Brent and Sandra, who was very active in amateur theatre and environmental matters, will be badly missed. No one could have contributed more to Dal Law School than Brent Cotter did over his fourteen years on the Faculty, but now it is the turn of their native province to benefit from their energy, commitment and intelligence.

Brent grew up in Moose Jaw and came to Dalhousie Law School after completing his Bachelor of Commerce Degree at the University of Saskatchewan. He was a fine student and an active and popular participant in the life of the Law School and the class of 1974. After graduation Brent returned to Regina to practice law, but in 1976 returned to Dal Law School as a graduate student, for what was to prove to be a prolonged stay. Having joined the Faculty in July 1977, Brent Cotter was awarded the LLM in 1979. His research focused on the unpaid employee as creditor so it was natural enough that his initial teaching assignments were in Commercial Law and Contracts. He soon added Professional Responsibility, later becoming recognized as a leading Canadian authority in legal ethics and legal education. Under Professor Cotter's leadership the course now entitled "Legal Profession and Professional Responsibility" was made compulsory for all Third Year students at Dalhousie Law School. He played a key role in the development of the Nova Scotia Legal Ethics Handbook, and in 1992 produced a major study on law school and professional legal education, commissioned by the Canadian Federation of Law Societies.

In 1979 Professor Cotter first took on the heavy responsibility of chairing the Admissions Committee, and admissions became a major commitment for the rest

of his time as a law teacher. He not only chaired the Law School committee for much of his time on Faculty, he was chair of the organization of Canadian law school admissions officers and was



Brent Cotter

its representative on the board of the American Law School Admission Test organization. In these roles he was deeply involved in moves to make Dalhousie and other law schools in Canada more accessible.

In 1979, along with his heavy involvement in admissions matters and teaching Commercial Law, Brent Cotter went to Dal Legal Aid as Assistant Director, a post he held until 1984. In the summer of 1988 he returned to the Clinic as Director for a year before going on sabbatical.

In January of 1985, on the recommendation of a search committee, Professor Cotter became Associate Dean. When the then Dean, Bill Charles, required major surgery in April the Associate Dean took on the Dean's duties as well, until the Dean-elect, Innis Christie, returned from sabbatical on August 1. Instead of a richly deserved vacation, Associate Dean Cotter was then faced

with the major crisis in the recent life of Dal Law School, the fire of August 14, 1985! His tenacity, common sense and commitment were absolutely vital to the continued effective functioning of the Law School over the next three years. In temporary quarters, with sometimes unhappy students and with the Dean heavily involved in the financing and planning for the new Weldon Building, he shouldered more than the Associate Dean's usual share of the daily administrative load, and also made a great contribution to planning for the future.

Perhaps more than for these accomplishments, Brent Cotter will be remembered by his students as an excellent classroom and clinical law teacher, well prepared, insightful and concerned with the broader issues. He is the joint author of a significant legal text, and author of a major report on legal education and numerous articles. Along with this, Brent and Sandra have two children, Kelly and Robbie, who have settled happily into life in Regina, and they are warm and loyal friends to many people in Halifax and Dartmouth, and to faculty and former students at Dalhousie Law School. During his time on the Faculty Brent somehow managed to maintain the curling and golf skills he had developed in what must have been a less demanding period of his life. He was a member of the Nova Scotia Brier team in 1981 and has maintained a single digit handicap. Understandably, his squash was never up to this level and, as Associate Dean, he was never able to vanquish the Dean. But cf. Hearsay, Spring '85, at p.27.

Innis Christie